

REPORT

OF THE

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE,

(From June 9th to December 8th, 1850.)

HELD IN

WHITEFIELD CHAPEL, HIGH STREET.

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C. DUNN, President. G. P. WAUGH, Clerk  
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The above Conference met on Sunday the 8th inst., at 11 o'clock, A.M., when the meeting was called to order by Elder W. A. Macmaster, who moved that Elder Crandell Dunn preside; seconded by Elder Waugh, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of President Dunn and Elder Macmaster, Brother Calder was voted to assist the Clerk of Conference to minute this day's proceedings.

After singing a hymn, Elder Burton engaged in prayer. The President then addressed the meeting as follows:—"I am happy to meet so many of the saints in the capacity of a Conference, and desire your prayers for the assistance of the Holy Spirit, that I may give such counsel and instruction as shall tend to roll forth the work of the Lord in this part of the vineyard. That the honest in heart in this region may be saved in the kingdom of God, &c. Peculiar are my feelings at this time, as I anticipate this to be the last Conference that we shall attend together on this side of the Atlantic; and it has been my constant prayer to our heavenly Father, that all my labours may be acceptable before him, &c.

Officers present,—2 Seventies, 1 High Priest, 18 Elders, 5 Priests, 9 Teachers, and 4 Deacons.

The Conference Clerk then read out the total of the various Branch Representations, as per table annexed.

The following resolutions were laid before the Conference, and adopted without dissent.

Moved by the President and seconded by W. Burton—That we uphold, by our faith and prayers, Brigham Young as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; and Heber C. Kimbell and Willard Richards his Counsellors.

Moved by W. Burton and seconded by J. McComie that we sustain the Quorum of the Twelve.

Moved by W. Burton and seconded by Colin McPherson—That we sustain F. D. Richards in his Presidency, as successor to our beloved Brother Orson Pratt, over the British Conferences; and Levi Richards and G. B. Wallace as his Counsellors.

Moved by C. Dunn and seconded by Elder Waugh—That Aberdeen, Arbroath, Dundee, Inverness, and Perth branches be organised, and designated the Dundee Conference, and be under the Presidency of Elder W. Burton, with the previous concurrence of President O. Pratt; which, being put to vote, was resolved.

It was then resolved, on the motion of Elders Dunn and Macmaster—That we accept and sustain Elder Jas. Marsden as President of the Edinburgh Conference.

Resolved, also, on the motion of C. Dunn and D. O. Calder—That Elder J. O. Angus labour in the Bo'ness district.

Resolved, on the motion of Elders Dunn and Thomas Neill—That Elder Macmaster labour in Tranent, Hunterfield, Galashiels, and vicinity.

Resolved, on the motion of Elders Dunn and Waugh—That Elder John Maccomie preside over the Edinburgh branch, in room of Robert Galt, resigned.

Resolved, on the motion of Brothers Dunn and P. McOmie—That we sustain Father Waugh as General Book and *Star* Agent, and Clerk; also Treasurer of Elders' Family and Emigration Funds.

Resolved, on motion of Elders Waugh and McComie—That each branch average one penny per month to support the Conference President's Family, and that the Fund for other Travelling Elders' Families be supported as usual.

Resolved, on motion of Elders Dunn and Calder—That Elder Robert Hill preside over the Falkirk branch, in room of D. O. Calder going to America.

Resolved, on motion of Elders Dunn and Macmaster—That Elder David Russell be released from the Presidency of Clackmannan branch, and that Priest John Hunter be ordained elder and preside there.

Resolved, on motion *carried in the Delegate's Council*—That the branches who have not paid their quota of the L.70 estimated to take Brother and Sister Dunn to the Valley of Utah, N. A., make up the same on or before March Conference at the ratio of 1s. 3d. per member, as now represented; to be sent to Brother Dunn through the Liverpool office.

Resolved, on motion of Elders Dunn and Macmaster—That Elder A. S. Adamson preside over the Aberdeen branch, and travel in that vicinity.

Resolved, on motion of Elders Dunn and Burton—That Elder A. Macdonald labour under the direction of President Burton, and that Elder Shepherd succeed Macdonald as President of Inverness Branch, and that the scattered members in Caithness be recognised by the Dundee Conference.

Resolved, on motion of Elders Dunn and Burton—That John Copley be General Book Agent for Dundee Conference.

Resolved, on motion of Elders Dunn and Angus—That Elder Burton be Treasurer of the Perpetual Emigration Fund.

Adjourned for one hour.

Two o'clock, p.m.—Conference re-opened with prayer by Elder J. O. Angus, when the President made the following brief remarks:—"Since I have been here I have endeavoured to do the best in my power for the spreading of the gospel and building up of the Saints. I have strove to give such counsel as was for the benefit of the Conference at large; and inculcated such principles into the minds of the Saints as were calculated to build them up in their most Holy Faith, &c. Elder Hugh Findlay having been called from Dundee district, that part of the Conference has not increased the same as heretofore, but the brethren there have been diligent; and I look forward for greater success to attend those who succeed me in the Conference; and my prayer to God is, that he will bless and prosper my successors; and the Presidents in both Conferences will find the Saints are a free and honest-hearted people: and I feel to thank them for their kindness to me in times past, and for assisting me home; and pray that you may receive fourfold and eternal life."

Moved by Elder Burton and seconded by Elder McComie—That we feel deeply to regret the departure of our much esteemed brother in Christ, Elder Dunn, our late President over this Conference. Nevertheless, we feel to sustain him by our prayers for the wisdom he has manifested, and the zeal and energy he has displayed in building up the kingdom of God in this and other parts of the British Isles, where he has been called to labour. We therefore implore the blessing of Heaven to attend him in all his future travels, and that he may safely reach his destination in the land of Zion.

Agreed, by the Presidents, that 500 copies of this Report be printed, and sold at half-penny per copy.

The Conference then adjourned till the second Sunday of March 1851.

ELDER WAUGH'S POETIC ADDRESS.

AIR.—YE BANKS AND BRAES.

Farewell all ye Saints of the Lord, fare ye well,
Destined to the valleys of Utah to dwell;
May heav'n speed your journey and guide you safe
o'er

To th' great Salt Lake City near Pacific Shore.
Some ten years have labor'd in Christ's renewed
cause,

Who rob'd, fed, and led you, to o'ercome your
foes;

While thousands are blest so, they ne'er more
need dread

To combat 'gainst satan 'mong living or dead!

Christ's gospel restor'd, is the pow'r of God still,
To all who believe it and obey his will;

Baptiz'd, neath the wave is his strait narrow way
That leadeth to life, the Redeemer doth say.

Pure water united to Covenant blood

Cleanseth from all sin, and restores us to God,

Who imparts His Spirit by laying on hands

Of His Elect Elders, that teach his commands.

Thus signs, as of old, follow them that believe,
To pervert this gospel, do millions deceive;
As faith comes by hearing, not therefore by signs,
For none can please God if purblind by crimes.
But sick now are healed, and demons cast out,
When with oil anointed, vile mockers they spout,
As in days of Noe, so Christ's coming shall be,
Dispersers must perish to set the Saints free!

Now Orson Pratt's labours are fam'd East and
West,

And those who have read him have been highly
blest;

The doctrine of Heaven he opes, Old and New;
And many are waiting to gather with you.

Yet ere long we'll meet you, if faithful we prove,
'Pon Ephraim's mountains, 'mong Saints whom

we love,
Redeem'd from Great Babylon's yoke and foul
stream,

To wait for Messiah, and hail him supreme!

Again fare ye well, and God save you from ill,
Till standing with Saviour's upon Zion's hills;
When all earthly kingdoms become Christ the
Lord's;

Transform'd then to plowshares shall be spears
and swords.

While passing the wilderness, freed from dismay,
Remember your brethren, and ardently pray,

Till Saints, left in Babylon, obtain aid to come,
And be wafted West to their thousand year's
home!

50 PLEASANCE, EDINBURGH,

December, 1850.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH REFORMERS OF

A.D. 1559 and 1643.

EXTRACTED FROM AN ADDRESS DELIVERED IN HOPE STREET BAPTIST CHAPEL,
GLASGOW, JANUARY 1840.

"Stackhous and other authors have proven that immersion continued as much
as possible to be used for 1300 years after Christ.

"We refer also to the Edinburgh Encyclopædia, edited by Sir David Brewster,
allowed to be one of the best scholars of the age. He states:—"That the word
baptize means to immerse, or Paul would never have said, that we are buried
with Christ by baptism; and that immersion was practised by all Christians
until the beginning of the fourteenth century. That the Council of Ravenna,
held in 1311, first sanctioned sprinkling. But corrupt as was the Church of
Rome, whose council this was, it did not enjoin sprinkling, but merely said
that this was admissible. It was also stated on the authority of Dr Wall, the
renowned author of the History of Infant *Sprinkling*, that the Presbyterian
Church, formed by John Calvin and his associates in Geneva, was the first church
on earth that ever enjoined sprinkling. We also stated, on the authority of Sir
David Brewster, that a number of men were *banished* from Great Britain, mostly
Scotsmen, who fled to *Geneva*; and, while there, renounced the authority of the
Pope, and greedily imbibed the *tenets* of that famous and learned man, John
Calvin; and returned to Scotland, with John Knox at their head, A.D. 1559, and
first introduced sprinkling into *this* country. From hence it made its way into
England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth; but when the Presbyterian Con-
fession of faith was adopted at Westminster, in A.D. 1643, it was put to the vote
in that Assembly, whether immersion should be retained, or sprinkling substituted
in its place,—24 for immersion, and 25 for sprinkling. This small majority was
gained by the great personal popularity of Doctor Lightfoot who gave the casting
vote in favour of sprinkling."

Contrast:—See Isa. xxiv. 1—6; Jer. xvi. 19—21; Matt. v. 17—20; 2 John
9—11.

Representation of the Edinburgh Conference and its Funds from June 9, to Dec. 8, 1850. Eliciting the Organization of Dundee into a distinct Conference.

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